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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 17, 1998

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC960161

Ex Parte: In re: Investigation
of area code relief for the 703
code of Northern Virginia

ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION

On June 25, 1998, Bell Atlantic-Virginia Inc. ("BA-VA") filed its response to Staff's Motion for Extension of Time. By letter dated June 26, 1998, BA-VA asked that the response be treated as a Motion for Reconsideration of the Commission's Order of June 23, 1998.

The Commission has determined that the response should be treated as a Motion for Reconsideration and that the Motion should be denied with regard to shortening the extension of time. In asking that the Staff be granted a two-month extension instead of a six-month extension, BA-VA expressed concern that a Staff Report filed at the end of 1998 would not permit the Commission and BA-VA sufficient time to implement a new area

code before the projected exhaustion of numbers in the existing 703 area code.

While we have been advised by the Staff that it is very likely the Staff Report will be submitted during the Fall of 1998, the Commission will not delay making its decision on code relief awaiting that report. The report will address possible number conservation measures whereas the question before the Commission is whether the relief in the 703 area code should be in the form of an overlay area code or a geographic split of the existing 703 area. This decision is not related to number conservation, and the Commission does not intend for that report to influence its decision on the type of relief.

Concerning the issue of splitting the 703 area code or introducing an overlay, the Commission agrees with BA-VA that the parties should have the opportunity to address matters that have occurred since the October 9, 1997, Examiner's Report. We will receive such supplementary comments through August 31, 1998.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) BA-VA's motion to extend the due date for the Staff Report no more than two months is denied.

(2) Parties may file supplemental comments on or before August 31, 1998.